

1 1. For use with a flexible strap having a substantially uniform width and thickness
2 and an end tab of increased thickness, a buckle for capturing and releasably retaining said end tab,
3 said buckle comprising:

4 a base;

5 parallel side walls extending upwardly from and cooperating with said

6 base to define an open-ended receiving channel having an entry end and an
7 exit end;

8 flanges spaced vertically from said base and extending inwardly in cantilever

9 fashion from said side walls to define an open-ended slot communicating

10 with and extending along the length of said receiving channel, said slot

11 being configured and dimensioned to accommodate longitudinal pinching

12 and lateral insertion of said strap into said receiving channel, and said

13 flanges having undersides configured to accommodate receipt of said end

14 tab in said receiving channel via said entry end, and to releasably retain and

15 prevent withdrawal of said end tab from said receiving channel via said

16 exit end.

1 2. The buckle of claim 1 wherein said flanges have converging sections leading from
2 a maximum width of said slot at the entry end of said receiving channel to a reduced width of said
3 slot at an intermediate location along the length of said channel.

1 3. The buckle of claim 1 wherein said end tab defines a shoulder extending
2 transversally across the width of said strap, and wherein the undersides of said flanges define stop
3 surfaces engageable with said shoulder.

1 4. The buckle of claim 3 wherein the undersides of said flanges further define
2 jamming surfaces sloping downwardly towards said stop surfaces.

1 5. The buckle of claim 1 wherein said base is secured to a section of said strap.

1 6. The buckle of claim 1 wherein said base is formed as an integral part of a carrier
2 structure.

1 7. The buckle of claim 1 further comprising attachment slots extending transversally
2 across said base, said buckle being attached to said strap by weaving said strap into and out of
3 said channel through said attachment slots.

1 8. For use with a flexible strap having a width and thickness and an end tab of
2 increased thickness, a buckle for capturing and releasably retaining said end tab, said buckle
3 comprising:

4 a base;

5 parallel side walls extending upwardly from said base to cooperate

6 therewith in defining an open-ended receiving channel;

7 flanges spaced vertically from said base and extending inwardly

8 from said side walls to define an open-ended slot communicating

9 with said receiving channel, said flanges having converging sections

10 leading from one end of said slot to an intermediate location

11 along the length thereof, said slot being configured and

12 dimensioned to accommodate longitudinal pinching and lateral insertion

13 of said strap into said receiving channel, and said converging sections of
14 said flanges having undersides configured to coact with said base in
15 releasably wedging said end tab in said receiving channel.